

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
31 W. MILWAUKEE AVE., FORT ATKINSON, WI 53538

August 2026

First Congregational UCC Broadcaster



There are a couple of things I look for throughout the summer and one of them is when the corn starts to tassel. It feels like a quick season from when the first shoots of bright green appear in patterned rows in the brown soiled fields. The Corn's Up!! I come home and declare. It's not too long and soon the rows disappear and the sea of green appears. Knee High by Fourth of July isn't really a thing anymore, but shortly thereafter, the tassels pop out and that's when the magic happens. The plant functions with its purpose... to grow kernels of corn.

In this season there are beginnings and endings. August brings the last weeks of summer. All the fun and gatherings are about to turn toward School Days and a different season. In the threshold of August, summer feels different. We look back to where we've been and forward to where we are going.

Similar to our life of faith, we motor along each day, reflecting on the ways our faith has changed over the years, and what is before us is unknown. May God be in your dwelling and offer all you need for the journey to what lies ahead. God's intent is clear, for each of us to become who we were intended to be.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Sara

Pastor Sara's Cell Phone contact:

A gentle reminder about contacting Pastor Sara on her cell phone.
Though some communication exists with Pastor Sara on her cell phone regarding health updates and concerns. Primarily Pastor Sara holds her cellphone 24/7 if a pastoral need should arise regarding sudden crisis,, hospital visit, or death. For all other communications please send her an email or call the church office regarding non-urgent manners and she will read and reply to your message when she is available. Thank you kindly.

Fair Meadows Saunter

Located along the shores of Lake Koshkonong in Rock County, Fair Meadows Sanctuary and State Natural Area is a beautifully restored landscape teeming with wildlife. This special place creates a safe haven for birds, rare plants, insects, mammals, and all wildlife to find refuge or raise young in an increasingly developed landscape.

Join us for a Saunter with the land on August 11, 2026. We will begin at 9 AM. Whether you would like to sit in a chair and listen to the birds and feel the prairie breeze, or if you want to walk a few feet or a mile, the congregation is invited to share in this special sanctuary.

Following our Saunter we will have a (bring your own) picnic lunch.

The address for Fair Meadows Sanctuary (and Penny and Gary Shackelford's home) is 11305 N Vogel Rd, Milton, WI 53563. When you enter the drive, keep left where the driveway splits, and follow the drive straight and to the right. You can park near the red barn near the end of the driveway. We will meet at the picnic tables under the trees above the barn.

For easier access, you can drive past the barn and follow the drive to the area next to the picnic tables.

There is a bathroom available on site if needed.

In case you need to get ahold of them the morning of, Gary's phone number is 608-201-2324 and Penny's phone number is 608-201-1600.

Trudy's Room Collection Drive

The Outreach Committee will be collecting needed items for Trudy's Room on

August 30, September 6, and September 13 th.

The needed items are:

- Diapers, newborn through size 6, but most often need size 3, 4, 5 and 6. use 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- Pullups in size 2-3t, 3-4t, 4-5t and 5-6t.
- Unscented wipes, diaper rash cream and bath/shampoo products.

Outreach Committee supports the UCC Wisconsin Conference appeal for earthquake relief

The Outreach Committee is looking to support the UCC Wisconsin Conference effort to advance relief efforts in Venezuela. On August 2, 9, and 16, there will be envelopes available for donations. Your check can be made out to First Congregation UCC. Please note Venezuela on the memo line; our church will forward one check.

As you know, the death toll from the twin earthquakes on June 24 surpassed 4,700, and thousands more people were injured and left homeless. News reports citing estimates by the United Nations and other international organizations say anywhere from 10,000 to 50,000 people are still unaccounted for. All donation to the UCC Wisconsin Conference relief effort will be forwarded to Church World Service.





Prayer in the Wild



Come join us for a wonderful autumn retreat at Daycholah Center on the southeast shore of beautiful Green Lake! Enjoy a weekend of relaxation, along with many fun and inspirational activities. This sacred place is the ancestral homeland of the Menomonie, Ojibwa, Ho Chunk Nations.

Prayer in the Wild

September 18-20, 2026

Daycholah Center UCC– Ripon

$260- 2 nights, 6 meals

$100 Registration due

by August 16, 2026

Laughter, Insight, Joy, Community, Rest, Blessings, Fed

First Congregational Retreat

September 18-20, 2026



We'll nestle into the comfortable accommodations of Oak Mound Lodge, where most guest rooms accommodate two or three people in twin-size beds, while two rooms have four beds. All bedrooms have bathrooms directly accessible– some with a private bath and some sharing a bath between two bedrooms.

Activities may include nature walks, birding, fishing, service projects, Spiritual study, arts/crafts, music, games, worship, and more! Our programming and schedule will be based on the make-up of the group and input from those who register. All ages are welcome; minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



Sample Schedule TBD

Friday, Sept. 18
11:30 a.m. – Check-in and explore
12:30 p.m. – Lunch

(**Optional arrival after work)

Dinner 5:30pm
Sunset and Vespers
Movie night, conversation, afterhours

Saturday, Sept. 19
8:30 am. – Breakfast
9:30 am Morning Devotions– Vesper Point

10:00am Activities of crafts and fun

11:30pm Prayer practices

12:30 p.m. – Lunch

Rest
3pm Wander Activity

5:30 p.m. – Dinner
Sunset and Prayers
Bonfire/Game Night

Sunday, Sept. 20
8:00 a.m. – Breakfast
Worship Service
11:00 a.m. – Departure

Registration is due by August 16th, $100 reservation, remaining amount due mid September including two nights lodging and six meals. We don't want cost to keep anyone from coming to the retreat. If you have several family members who want to participate or if it will be a financial hardship, please speak to Pastor Sara.

Please complete the enclosed registration slip and place it in an envelope along with your check. Drop it into the offering plate or deliver to the church office to reserve your spot at this exciting retreat opportunity!

September 18-20, 2026

Daycholah Center: https://ucci.org/daycholah-center/

Daycholah Center

W1010 Spring Grove Rd.—Ripon WI

Coming September 13th 10am Worship
First Congregational UCC- Fort Atkinson
God is still singing!

The **WISCONSIN GOSPELLERS** is a choir ministry & faith community affiliated with the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ. The choir was founded in 2007 by Fritz West, in response to an invitation from the *West End Gospel Singers* in Eberswalde, Germany. Fritz recruited Martin Ulrich as musical director—and rallied singers from around the state. The *West End Gospel Singers* have toured Wisconsin and northern Illinois three times; the WI Gospellers traveled to Berlin-Brandenburg in 2008, 2012 & 2016.

In 2018, we traveled to New York City to help the New York Conference UCC kick start its own state-wide gospel choir. In 2019, the **GOSPELLERS** toured Germany's Hesse and Rhineland regions; we sang with two German gospel choirs and were the featured guests at the Frankenberg Open Air Concert, accompanied by a full youth orchestra!

During Covid-19, we used a WIUCC Catalyst Grant to produce 2 virtual choir performances. And in 2024, we hosted *gospel and more* (our choir partners in Essen, Germany) in Oshkosh and Milwaukee.

From the start, the **WISCONSIN GOSPELLERS** have…

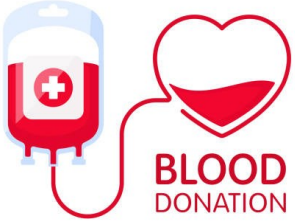
- Supported the long-standing partnership between the United Church of Christ (UCC) and Germany's Union of Evangelical Churches (UEK).
- Aimed to share God's love & grace through the powerful language of gospel music.
- Embraced the mutual hospitality and fellowship of what Germans call *Kirchengemeinschaft* (full church communion). For us, this means joint rehearsals and concerts, homestays, shared meals, and local culture.

Save the Date: Gospellers Choir in worship 10 AM



Blood Donors Needed

Every 2 seconds someone in the United States need a pint of blood. Blood supply chains are always in need of blood to maintain a healthy inventory necessary for saving lives. If you are one who prefers that blood supply remains locally, you have an opportunity to donate a pint of blood on August 20th at Fort Health Care on behalf of First Congregational United Church of Christ. Appointments can be made from 10:30 am until 1:50 pm. Please consider donating a life saving pint to keep our local hospital blood inventory healthy. If interested please sign up in the narthex.



Helper Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
August 9	Bob & Jo Ann Rose	Judy Brown and Pat Jung	Terry Teipner	Kevin Becker
August 16	Judy Brown	Ruth Hammiller and Nancy Onufer	Sarah Brietzke	Kurt Wesemann
August 23	Mary Beyerly	Chris & Brenda Reed	Ruth Hammiller	Kurt Wesemann
August 30	Christine & Brooklyn McKinney	Larry & Mary Narkis	Heidi Siefkes	Bob Buell

The Food Pantry items needed:

Canned Chili
White Rice
Raisin Bran
Chili Beans
Applesauce
Beef Stew





Summer Worship Hours



Summer worship will be

9 AM



Return to 10 AM on Sept. 13th

Join Pastor Sara for coffee Wednesday Mornings in August.

(August 5, 12, 19)
9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Langhoff Coffee on Main St.
This is a time to meet new people and get to know one another better.

August 30th Pulpit Swap

On Sunday August 30 we'll welcome Rev. Peter Bredlau from our neighbor church, Trinity Lutheran ELCA. Pastor Sara will preach at Trinity on Sunday morning worship service on that day. After worship, each Pastor will stay to share information about their congregation and explore ways that we could partner in ministry in Fort Atkinson and beyond. Please join us for worship on August 30 to welcome Pastor Bredlau.

SAVE THE DATES

Aug. 11—Fair Meadows Saunter 9-11 a.m. with Picnic to follow.

Aug. 20—Pulpit Swap Rev. Peter Bredlau

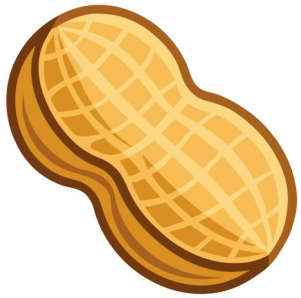
Sept 13—Save the Date: Gospellers Choir in worship 10 a.m.

CALLING ALL PEANUTS WORKERS!!!

The 2026 Peanut season will soon officially begin. We really need YOU to fill out our crew of dedicated peelers. The first session will be on Monday, August 24. Peeling red-skins off our wonderful Super Extra Large peanuts begins around 8:00am and finishes usually around 11:00am. Our rule is: "Come when you can, leave when you must." We need everyone to help make our peanuts season successful. All profits support our Church and its Ministries.

OUR 2026 SEASON AT A GLANCE:

POUNDS OF PEANUTS ORDERED: (26 forty-five pound bags) 1,170
EXPECTED NUMBER OF 11oz BAGS PRODUCED 1,530
FIRST PEANUT PROCESSING SESSION August 24 th
LAST PEANUT PROCESSING SESSION November 30 th
NUMBER OF SESSIONS TO WINTER MARKET 13
TARGET AVERAGE WEEKLY PRODUCTION 118 bags
(AVERAGE WEEKLY PRODUCTION IN 2025) 128 bags



Coffee Fellowship Sign-Up

A sign-up sheet to host Coffee Fellowship during August (following the 9:00 summer worship service) is posted in the narthex. Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who offer their time and talents to our church family in this fun ministry of fellowship!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
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Church Office: (920) 563-4802

Church Email: officefortucc@gmail.com
Moderator: Linda Glendon jlglendon@tds.net
Rev. Dr. Sara Rabe: revsarafortucc@gmail.com
Church's Website: www.fortfcc.org

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ